

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Austria	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]
SUBJECT	Renewed Soviet Interest in Impounded Accounts of German Nationals	DATE DISTR.	6 April 1954
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SOURCE [REDACTED]

1. During the week of 8 February 1954, General Director Ivan Alexandrevitch Savin of the Soviet Military Bank ordered a complete restudy of documents pertaining to an old Soviet account with the Oesterreichische Nationalbank, Otto Wagnerplatz 3, Vienna IX, and directed that an analysis be cabled to the Soviet representative at the Berlin Foreign Ministers' Conference.
2. The assignment concerns former German checking and savings accounts amounting to approximately 30,000,000 schillings, confiscated in 1945 by order of the Soviet High Commissioner, Vladimir K. Kurasov, and transferred at that time to a special account opened by the Soviet Military Bank with the Austrian National Bank. When the 1947 currency reform was carried out, the Nationalbank refused to convert the 30,000,000 schillings, on the ground that they could not afford to exchange legal currency for valueless assets. Documents pertaining to the account were filed and stored in the basement of the Soviet complex at Trattnerhof, Vienna I.
3. During the week of 8 February, 10 Austrian employees were detailed to work full-time preparing an analysis of the documents, but it was considered doubtful that the assignment would be completed before the close of the Berlin Conference.

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